

Message Text

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FOR: USIA FOR IOPIM AND ILA, STATE FOR ARA, USUN FOR GARUFI

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PM MANLEY NEW YORK SPEECH AND OTHERS

1. UNDER A BANNER HEADLINE WHICH READ: "CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - MANLEY BACKS CARTER STANCE", THE JAMAICA DAILY NEWS ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, DEVOTED NEARLY ITS ENTIRE FRONT PAGE TO A REPORT OF PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S SPEECH TO THE JAMAICAN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTE AT THE WALDORF-ASTORIA LAST THURSDAY.

2. QUOTE: "THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES," NOTED, "IS CLEARLY MOVING TOWARDS A NEW AND MORE PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF THE MORAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DYNAMICS OF THE LAST QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

"THE SUMMONS TO A RENEWED CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE UNEQUIVOCAL DEFINITION OF THOSE RIGHTS TO INCLUDE THE ECONOMIC AND THE SOCIAL CONCERNS OF THE POOR AND THE DISPOSSESSED AND THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH, HAS PROVOKED SOME CONTROVERSY, BUT WE IN JAMAICA APPROVE AND ENDORSE
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THESE INITIATIVES.

"WE DO SO BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THERE CAN BE NO PEACE IN THE WORLD UNTIL ALL NATIONS COMMIT THEMSELVES BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY TO THIS QUEST."

MR. MANLEY SAID THAT THE POLITICAL PROCESS AROUND THE

WORLD WAS MATURING, POINTING TO RECENT EVENTS SUCH AS PRESIDENT CASTRO'S VISIT TO JAMAICA, THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY, DETENTE, AND THE POSSIBLE U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA - WHICH A FEW YEARS AGO WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE. END QUOTE.

3. BALANCE OF ARTICLE NOTES MANLEY'S BELIEF THAT THERE IS A "BASIS FOR HOPE THAT MANKIND AS A WHOLE IS PAYING A LITTLE LESS ATTENTION TO THOSE STRIDENT VOICES THAT STILL SEEK TO SUMMON US TO THE BARBARITIES OF BYGONE ERAS WHEN FORCE AND POWER WERE THE MULES THAT DRAGGED THE CART OF EXPLOITATION ACROSS THE ARID PLAINS OF COLONIAL HISTORY...". MANLEY IS QUOTED AS NOTING "TWO OVERRIDING FAILURES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY": FAILURE TO CREATE A WORLD IN WHICH "PEACE IS SECURE ENOUGH" TO PERMIT A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN ARMAMENTS AND REALLOCATION OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. AND "THE CONTINUING REFUSAL OF THE MAJOR NATIONS OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE NEED FOR THE PROGRESSIVE REORGANISATION OF THE WORLD'S INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND DEALINGS, WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER".

4. THE DAILY NEWS SUNDAY BACKED UP ITS FRONT-PAGE REPORT WITH A MAJOR EDITORIAL STATEMENT HEADED: "MANLEY BACKS HUMAN RIGHTS".

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FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT:

BEGIN QUOTE: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF AMERICAN PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN NEW YORK LAST THURSDAY, SEEMS A STEP FORWARD IN THE PROGRESS OF REBUILDING BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT WE CAN RECALL, THAT MR. MANLEY HAS SPOKEN SO POSITIVELY ABOUT THE PRESENT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, AND IT SEEMS TO US TO HAVE GONE BEYOND THE NORMAL COURTESIES EXTENDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF A COUNTRY ONE IS VISITING.

THE FACT IS THAT MR. MANLEY BY HIS ENDORSEMENT, WAS LINING UP ON THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO ARE CONSIDERED FRIENDS OF AMERICA, AND WILL CERTAINLY BE CRITICISED FOR IT BY THOSE OF THE LEFT, IN AND OUT OF JAMAICA, WHO STILL BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS A DIRECT ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST BLOC, ESPECIALLY RUSSIA.

MR. MANLEY HIMSELF WAS CLEARLY AWARE OF THIS SITUATION
WHEN HE SPOKE, AND HE MADE IT KNOWN THAT HE WAS TAKING
STAND FULLY CONSCIOUS THAT THE AMERICAN POSITION HAD
"PROVOKED SOME CONTROVERSY."

IF MR. MANLEY'S ENDORSEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A LONG
TIME TO COME, THE DELAY IS NEVERTHELESS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE.
IN OUR LIFETIME, A NEW MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE MEANT NOTHING
OF SERIOUS INTEREST TO THE PEOPLE SOUTH OF MIAMI, OR IN THE
WHOLE DEVELOPING WORLD FOR THAT MATTER.
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ALL IT USED TO INVOLVE WAS A CHANGE OF A FEW FACES, BUT NOT
OF THE POLICIES WHICH LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN PEOPLE
HAD LEARNT THROUGH BITTER EXPERIENCE, DID NOT HAVE THEIR
BEST INTERESTS AT HEART.

SO WHEN THIS FAIR-HAIRED SOUTHERNER TOOK UP THE MOST POWERFUL
JOB IN THE WORLD, "THE POOR AND THE DISPOSSESSED AND THE
WRETCHED OF THE EARTH" EXPECTED NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL
PLEASANTRIES, AND A CONTINUATION OF THE SYSTEMATIC
OPPRESSION WHICH THEY HAD BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO ENDURE FROM
BIG BROTHER TO THE NORTH.

BUT FROM HIS VERY FIRST SPEECH TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS PART OF
THE WORLD, MR. CARTER GAVE A STRONG INDICATION THAT HIS
ADMINISTRATION WILL BE DIFFERENT. SOMEHOW, EXPERIENCED PEOPLE
IN THESE MATTERS, SEEMED TO FEEL THE MAN WAS SINCERE; THAT
WAS NOT JUST BEING POLITE OR DIPLOMATIC. SINCE THEN,
MR. CARTER HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE A FAVOURABLE IMPRESSION

AMONG LEADERS OF THE THIRD WORLD BY HIS QUICK UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS THESE LEADERS HAVE TO FACE. IN ADDITION, HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO GATHER AROUND HIM THE TYPE OF TECHNICAL STAFF WHO CLEARLY ARE TELLING HIM THE SITUATION AS IT IS - NO PROTECTIVE FRILLS OF WHITE LIES TO MAKE THE AMERICAN EFFORT LOOK GOOD.

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THE RESULT OF THIS IS THAT MR. CARTER CAN SPEAK WITH A RARE AUTHORITY AN INSIGHT ON THIRD WORLD MATTERS.

AND WE SUSPECT IT IS THIS HONEST APPROACH THAT HAS MADE MR. MANLEY FEEL THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ARE SERIOUS ENOUGH TO DESERVE HIS BACKING.

AND AS THE PRIME MINISTER PUT IT IN HIS SPEECH IN NEW YORK: "MORE AND MORE WE ARE LEARNING THE LESSON OF ACCOMMODATION, OF TOLERANCE, OF MUTUAL RESPECT." END QUOTE.

5. THE DAILY GLEANER DID NOT GET AROUND TO COVERAGE OF THE MANLEY NEW YORK SPEECH UNTIL MONDAY, OCT. 31, CHOOSING AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT EMPHASIS IN A LENGTHY FRONT PAGE REPORT ACCOMPANIED BY AN API PICTURE OF MARIAN ANDERSON PRESENTING AN AWARD TO PM MANLEY (ALSO FRONT-PAGED IN THE DAILY NEWS). THE GLEANER REPORT WHICH WAS HEADLINED: "PM, JAMAICA INTERESTED IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT", TOOK AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT APPROACH (IN FACT, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THOSE PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH REPORTED IN SUNDAY'S DAILY NEWS) AND EMPHASIZE MANLEY'S INVITATION TO "FOREIGN INVESTMENT... (WHICH BEGINS) WITH A COMMITMENT TO ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP". THE GLEANER REPORTS QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM THE PM'S REMARKS OUTLINING THE "CARDINAL AIMS" OF JAMAICA'S FOREIGN POLICY; NOTES HIS MENTIONS OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY, SOUTH AFRICA, CASTRO'S RECENT VISIT TO JAMAICA, JAMAICA'S SOCIAL OBJECTIVES; AND INTEREST IN "FOREIGN INVESTMENT" UNDER THE TERMS DEFINED IN THE HEADLINE. THE GLEANER STORY NOTED AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS IN INTRODUCING MANLEY (WITH A PICTURE ON PAGE 2) TO THE EFFECT THAT "THE DISTINGUISHED LINEUP OF GUESTS ON THE (THREE TIER) DIAS (WERE PERSONS WHOSE) INFLUENCE COULD DO A GREAT DEAL TO

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SOLVE NOT ONLY JAMAICA'S PROBLEMS BUT THE PROBLEMS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE." THE GLEANER CARRIED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. (POST IS POUCHING TEAR-SHEETS THESE STORIES TO

ADDRESSEES.)

6. THE DAILY NEWS ON OCTOBER 31 CARRIED A NUMBER OF REUTERS ITEMS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST: ON PAGE 9, "CUBA WON'T PAY BIG FOR NORMAL TIES WITH US" -- A QUOTE FROM A REPORT ISSUED IN WASHINGTON BY SENATOR CHURCH;"SOVIETS MAY GIVE AFRICA NUCLEAR ARMS -- YOUNG", QUOTING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S STATEMENT FROM A TV INTERVIEW RECORDED OCT. 30; AND, ON PAGE 16 (HALF THE PAGE)" MEET 'ZOGZAG CARTER' ", DATELINED BEIRUT, OCTOBER 20. (POST PRESUMES ADDRESSEES HAVE TEXTS THESE REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES.)

7. ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, THE AFTERNOON TABLOID STAR DEVOTED MOST OF ITS CENTERFOLD TO AN EXTENSIVE REPRIS OF THE HISTORY OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND ITS PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER THE HEADLINE: PANAMA CANAL TREATY STIRS THE AMERICAN EMOTIONS", CREDITED TO THE GEMINI NEWS SERVICE BY NIKKI BALL.) ALSO ON THURSDAY, THE DAILY NEWS DEVOTED THE LEAD POSITON ON ITS OP-ED PAGE TO A USIS RELEASE: "CARTER'S VISIT TO LA SHOWS INTEREST IN THE REGION" BY IPS STAFFER JUAN JOSE PALACIOS. SANDSTROM

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